# THE LITTLE PILGRIM.

"We will go up by the King's highway"

Vol. XX. JULY 14, 1895. No. 28.

Lily's Idol.

## WHAT WAS LILY'S IDOL?

(Picture Story.)

LILY had been to a missionary meeting with her mamma, and when she came home her little tongue could not chatter fast enough to tell all she had seen and heard.

"Why, there was a missionary lady there and she had some little idols in a bag, and she took them out and showed them to us. Some of them were only about so long and they were not dollies either, for they were too homely for dollies, but she said the little boys and girls where they came from used to kiss them forty times a day and say prayers to them and hand them presents. They were little gods, idol-gods, you know."

"Why did n't they pray to the true God?" asked mamma.

"Oh, they did n't know about him," said Lily. "If they had, you don't suppose they would do such silly things, do you? But she says some of them do begin to learn about the 'Jesus-god,' as they call him. They come to the school and they learn to read in the Bible, and by and by they have to begin to think which they will pray to, these little ugly dolls or the good God in heaven. And then they have to say which they will mind and which they will care about most, and it ends in making them all over. They have to stop being heathens and be little Christian boys and girls."

"Well done!" said big brother Ben, coming in just in time to hear Lily's last words and guess at all the rest of it. "I shall vote for my little sister to go to all the missionary meetings if she comes home with such a good report as that every time. But what did she say to you about your idols?"

"I don't have any idols!" said Lily. "The idea! I would n't do such a thing!"

"Um! um!" said Ben provokingly. "Perhaps it was n't you that I heard my father saying a verse to this morning — a verse right out of the Bible. 'Little children, keep yourself from idols.' You were standing in front of the bureau, as I remember, admiring the shape of your sweet little nose or teeth or something. But then, you would n't do such a thing, oh, no!"

"Mamma!" cried Lily hotly, with real tears in her eyes, "do I 'bow down to idols'? Is n't Ben a horrid old tease? Is n't an idol something made out of stone or brass or gold, or something like that, that you go down on your knees to and say prayers to? And have I got such a thing anywhere in the world? Say he 's an old fibber, mamma."

"Well," said mamma, smiling, "I do think he is a bit of a tease, but an idol is something that you put in place of God, or love better than you do God, and would do more for. Some people make an idol of their money. Some boys and girls seem to make an idol of their play and of good things to eat, and missionary pennies go to buy presents for their own dear mouths and pockets. You will have to think Ben's words over and make up your own mind about your idol."

So Lily went away with a queer feeling in her heart that mamma thought, like Ben, that she had an idol. As she went upstairs Ben called after her: —

"Go look in the glass, Lil, and you 'll see it!"

But she did not go and look in the glass, just then. Instead, she sat down in her little low rocker, and thought about idols and things. Was it bad to think a great deal about your yellow hair and your bright blue eyes and your mouthful of milky white teeth? Was Lily's own self Lily's idol?

## LESSON STORY.

THE GOLDEN CALF. (Exodus. 32:1-8, 30-35.)

GOD had many things to say to Moses besides giving him the Ten Commandments for the people. There were many other laws and rules for his people to live by then which we do not need to keep now; laws about sacrifices and worship and ways of living and many other things. Then there was the tabernacle or Holy Tent, which for so long was to be the only church they could have in their desert wanderings; and God gave Moses very careful directions about making it. These were some of the things that Moses was learning about up there in the mount with God all those forty days and nights while the people waited below.

But the people grew tired and impatient, and they came to Aaron and said they did not know what had become of this Moses who had started out to be their leader, and they asked Aaron to make idols for them such as the heathen nations worshiped. So Aaron told them to bring the earrings of gold which they wore, and he melted them in the fire and made a calf which he set up for them to worship, and he built an altar before it, and the people danced and sang songs and played on instruments of music.

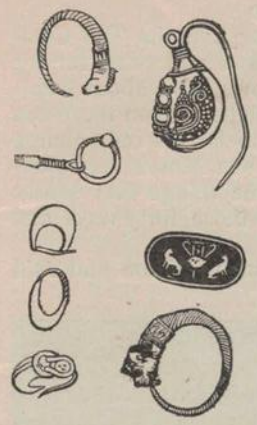
MOSES AND THE TEN COMMANDMENTS.

When Moses came down and saw all this he was so angry and discouraged that he threw down the two stone tables that God had given him, and broke them on the ground. They had already broken the law; of what use was it to keep the stone on which the commandments were written? Then he had the idol ground to powder and the dust thrown into the brook from which they drank, and after that he punished the worst sinners among them, and then he went back to the mount to beg forgiveness for God's poor, weak, sinning people. He said he would be willing to have his name blotted out of God's book, if there was no other way, if God would only try them again. So God listened to this good man's prayer and he did not cast off his people, but gave them the commandments again on new tables, though this time they were not written with God's finger, as they were before.

THEIR idols are silver and gold,
The work of men's hands.
Ye that fear the Lord, trust in the Lord:
He is their help and their shield. — Psalm 115:4, 11.

**GOLDEN TEXT. — Little children, keep yourselves from idols. — 1 John 5:21.**

## PICTURE HELPS.



**Large, gold earrings** are still very much worn in the East, both by men and women. Egyptian earrings were usually heavy, round ones, as we may see by the figures on the monuments. Sometimes they had jewels set in them, and often there were strange engraved figures, so that they were prized as charms or talismans.

**The Calf-Idol** is sometimes thought to have been taken from the older Chaldean worship of which the old Assyrian monuments give us so many proofs to-day. Some of these animals were winged with human heads and faces. Many believe the calf was something like Moloch, a horrible calf-headed brazen image with stretched out arms.

## LESSON QUESTIONS.

1. What did the people do while Moses was in the mount?
2. What did Aaron make for them?
3. Where did he get the gold?
4. What did the Lord tell Moses to do?
5. What did Moses do when he saw the idol?
6. How did he punish the people?
7. What did the Levites do at Moses' command?
8. What then did Moses do?
9. What did he say to the Lord?
10. What did the Lord promise?
11. What did he give again to Moses?

**KEY to Lesson Questions.** 1. Asked Aaron to make an idol for them, such as heathen nations had. 2. A calf of gold. 3. He melted their earrings, which were very large and heavy. 4. Go down and see how the people were behaving. 5. He was angry and broke the tables of the law. 6. He destroyed the idol and made the people drink the dust of it. 7. Took their swords and killed three thousand of the people. 8. Went back to the mount to beg God to forgive his people. 9. He asked God to forgive them or else to blot his name also out of his book. 10. To forgive their sin and be their leader. 11. The commandments, on new tables of stone.

## HONOR ROLL.

**The Lord's Prayer**: — CECIL E. BROUS, RUTH MADELINE BROUS, HENRY L. KURTZ, EDGAR MUCKLE, LEILA MUCKLE, EARLE PERRY, EONA PERRY, JESSIE SMITH, IVY SUTTON, ESTHER SILVER, MYRTLE DIETZ, all of Rainier, Oregon.

## MISSING WORDS.

MOSES' ANGER. — Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, Whose is , let him come unto me. And all the gathered themselves together unto him. And he said unto them, Thus saith the Lord, the God of Israel, Put ye every man his upon his thigh, and go to and fro from gate to gate throughout , and every man his , and every man his , and every man his neighbour. — Exodus 32 : 26, 27.

Published weekly by CONGREGATIONAL SUNDAY-SCHOOL AND PUBLISHING SOCIETY, Boston, Mass., at 25 cents a year, postage prepaid. Entered at the Post Office in Boston, Mass., as second-class mail matter.